

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL26-000014

File #: 26-005915

Event Name: PorchFest 2026

Business Name: Somerville Arts Council (Porchfest)

Application Type: Public Event License

Location: Citywide

APPLICANT

Company Name: Somerville Arts Council

Contact Name: Iaritza Menjivar

Business Address:

50 Evergreen Ave
Somerville, MA 02145

Home Address:

50 Evergreen Ave
Somerville, MA 02145

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Email: imenjivar@somervillema.gov

of days: 1

Does this event occupy a public space or significantly affect nearby residents?: Yes

Are you the party applying for the Public Event License?: Yes

Describe the location in detail: The event takes place on private property, including residents' porches, yards, and driveways, throughout Somerville. Performances are not permitted in public parks or other public open spaces. We will continue to follow the "Street Functional Classes" restrictions provided by the Engineering Department. Performances are prohibited on the following restricted streets: Broadway, Cedar St, Central St, College Ave, Elm St, Highland Ave, Lowell St, Powder House Blvd, School St, Somerville Ave, Summer St, Walnut St, and Willow Ave. New this year: 1. Corner properties located on side streets adjacent to the restricted streets listed above will also be prohibited from hosting performances, in order to prevent large crowds from spilling onto major roadways, as recommended by Police and Fire. 2. We will review the overall density of participating addresses in coordination with Public Safety officials to ensure appropriate crowd distribution and safety planning. The City maintains the right to deny addresses based on public safety concerns.

In the last 5 years, have you been found guilty, liable, or responsible, in any judicial or administrative proceeding, for any violation of the City Wage Theft Ordinance or any State or Federal laws or regulations regulating the payment of wages? [City Wage Theft Ordinance](#): No

Date: 05/09/2026

Event Setup Begins: 10:30 AM

Start Time: 12:00 PM

End Time: 06:00 PM

Event Cleanup Ends: 07:00 PM

Do You Have a Proposed Rain Date for Your Public Event?: No

Organization name; if none, your name: Somerville Arts Council

Describe any social or cultural benefits of this event for Somerville residents : PorchFest is a community event that brings neighbors together through live music. It provides a platform for musicians of all levels to share their talents, especially those who lack access to traditional performance spaces. The event celebrates Somerville's diverse music scene, encourages cultural exchange, and transforms porches into welcoming stages that enhance the city's vibrant arts culture.

Describe any financial benefits of this event for Somerville businesses or organizations: PorchFest brings the community out into Somerville's neighborhoods, increasing foot traffic for local businesses. Many restaurants, cafes, and shops see a significant boost in sales, with some reporting it as their busiest day of the year. The event encourages attendees to explore different areas of the city, benefiting a wide range of businesses and economic activity.

What is the budget for this event?: 3,000

Complete Mailing Address : 50 Evergreen Ave Somerville, MA 02145

Contact name for follow-up questions (Will be available to the public): Iaritz Menjivar

Email: imenjivar@somervillema.gov

Phone (Will be available to the public): 857-270-4988

Event Name : PorchFest 2026

Describe the Event: PorchFest follows a unique, decentralized approach, with bands performing from local porches while guests move through the city, which is divided into West, Central, and East zones. Unlike a traditional festival with a single activated location, this event spans multiple neighborhoods, showcasing Somerville's musical talent and community spirit. It's about young kids playing in their yards with family and friends and lifelong musicians getting the chance to perform once again for an intimate crowd. 12:00–2:00 PM – West Zone (West of Willow Ave.) 2:00–4:00 PM – Central Zone (Central St to Willow Ave.) 4:00–6:00 PM – East Zone (East of Central St.)

Describe any Entertainment at the Event (if none, type None): Live Music and an interactive digital map to find participating addresses.

Describe any tents, inflatables, or other temporary structures to be used (if none, type None): We will work with the Department of Public Works in placing a large number of portable restrooms and extra trash bins around the city. These will be placed in parks, open public spaces that allows room for the units, city parking lots, etc.

Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants: We will provide information on how each porch / band host can keep the sidewalks clear for participants. In our form we ask bands to describe if there location is accessible or not.

Estimated maximum attendance at one time : estimate of 2,000 people spread throughout a zone

Estimated total number of people attending: 6,000

Estimated total number of Somerville residents attending : 4,000

Maximum number of attendees you will accommodate: 6,000

Attendee fees or suggested donations : suggested donations for the bands

Will this event be open to the public?: Yes

Describe your outreach/publicity: Newsletter, social media, Press Release, posters, flyers.

Will food be served?: No

Will a grill/open-flame device be used? : No

Will any streets be blocked? : Yes

If yes, describe:: We are allowing PorchFest block parties. Additionally on the day of, SPD and Fire hold the right to block a road due to crowding and keeping pedestrians safe.

Road to be closed: TBD on block party app

Cross street where road closure will start: TBD on block party app

Cross street where road closure will end: TBD on block party app

Will any sidewalks be blocked? : No

Will any public parks be used? : No

Has this event occurred in the last two years? : Yes

If yes, prior dates : 5/10/2025, 05/11/2024

Police Detail : Yes

If yes, describe:: We are working with Police, Fire, and the Emergency Management Team to set up a unified command center and the Incident Action Plans.

Parking for Attendees : Yes

If yes, describe:: We work with traffic and parking to relax parking throughout the city from 12pm to 6pm.

Restrooms : Yes

If yes, please describe the restrooms being provided, and if you are providing portable toilets, state how they will be delivered and removed: We are working with DPW and Mayor's Office to help request and drop several porta-potties across the city.

Liability Insurance : No

Approval Conditions:

Reviewer: CS Mayor, Mayor's Office, Approved

Reviewer: Albert Bargoot, ISD Building, Approved

Reviewer: Kevin Roche, Engineering, Approved

Reviewer: Eric Weisman, Public Works, Approved

Reviewer: Charles Breen, Fire Prevention, Approved

Reviewer: Suzanne Rinfret, Traffic and Parking, Approved

Reviewer: Mackenzie Richardson, Police, Approved

Reviewer: Kimberly M. Wells, City Clerk, Approved

Reviewer: Jesse Moos, Engineering, Complete